TABLE 'B'—[Variety]—American Cotton (Narma)

(Figures in running lakh bales)

YEAR	STATES			
Punjab	Haryana	Rajasthan	Total	
1996-1997	10.60 (J-34)	7.17 (J-34)	1.90 (J-34)	19.67
	3.17 , (F-414/Aggati)	1.37 (F-414/Aggati)	1.16 (F-414/Aggati)	5.70
			7.83 (Bikaneri Narma)	7.83
1997-1998	4.63 (J-34)	5.30 (J-34)	1.06 (J-34)	10.99
	1.55 (F-414/Aggati)	0.90 (F-414/Aggati)	0.20 (F-414/Aggati)	2.65
			6.22 (Bikaneri Narma)	6.22
1998-99	3.30 (J-34)	1.98 (J-34)	2.14 (J-34)	7.42
	0.97 (F-414/Aggati)	0.45 (F-414/Aggati)	1.27 (F-414/Aggati)	2.69
			6.65 (Bikaneri Narma)	6.65

Source : Oflice of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai.

Revitalisation of the Extension Services in Himachal Pradesh

2936. SHRI ANIL SHARMA; Will the Ministery of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) what steps are envisaged to revitalise the extension services in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government will consider supporting the setting up of regional/district agricultural training centres for farmers and extension works by fiinding through a special programme for this purpose in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):—(a) Agricultural extension being a state subject the Central Government supplements the States efforts. Steps taken by the Central Government to strengthen extension ser\'ices in Himachal Pradesh include the following:—

Supporting training amd capacity' building programmes for senior extension functionaries of the State Government in the areas of agriculture technology' and extension methodology.

- Promoting farm information programmes which include organisation of exhibitions, *kisan melas,* all India fruit and vegetable shows and dissemination of information through print media.
- Strengthening extension ser\'ices by way of training, result demonstrations, study tours, etc. to farm women groups under women in Agriculture Scheme.
- Improving research-extension-farmer linkages promoting farmer-scientists interations and farmers study tours to Agriculture Universities, Research Institutes and other places of excellence.

Pilot testing of new institutional arrangements for a farmer driven, bottom-up oriented technology dissemination system under National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) to be tested in four districts viz. Shimla, Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Kangra.

- Providing training and demonstration support to the farmers through 8 Krishi Vigj'an Kendras in the State located at Kulu, Chamba, Una, Mandi, Sirmor, Harmirpur, Kinnor and Shimla.

(b) and (c) State Agricultural Mangement and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) at Mashobra is supported under World Bank funded National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) for training of State extension functionaries. The Project provides for setting-up of Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) in the selected districts (Shimla, Hamirpur, Kangra and Bilaspur) and Farm Information and Advisory Centres (FIACs) at the block level in these districts. Also^ three Agricultural Technology' Information Centres (ATICs) are proposed to be established under NATP in the State for providing information and advisory services to the farmers. These

centres would be located one each at Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwa Vidhyalaya Palampur, Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan and Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla.

Agreements made with Mangolia for Agricultural Cooperation

2937. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed a five year work plan with Mangolia for co-operation in agricutural sector and a friendship form is in the process of being set-up;

(b) whether during the Vice-President's visit to Mangolia in 1996 agriculture was agreed upon to be the main area of bilateral co-operation;

(c) whether Mangolia is reaching out to the world community for translating its animal husbandry resources; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to see that the benefit reaches to the poor farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYAN RAO);—(a) to (d) During the Vice-President's visit to Mangolia in 1996, agriculture was agreed upon as one of the areas for bilateral co-operation between the two countries and an Agreement for co-operation in the field of agriculture between the Government of India and the Government of Mangolia was signed on 16th September, 1996. The Agreement provides for Scientific, Technical and Economic Cooperafion invarious areas of agriculture. An Indo-Mangolian friendship farm was also set up on 19th May, 1997 at Darkhan, Mangolia, with the aim of assisting Mangolia in increasing food production through supply of seeds, development of cold resistant varieties, training of Mangolian scientists in Indian Institutions, etc. Under the Agreement a Work Plan for cooperation in the field of agriculture between India and Mangolia was signed on 28th January, 2000 for the period 2000-2005. The Work Plan contains proposals for exchange of seed samples; exchange of scientific and technical information; training of Mangolian Specialists in India and study visits of Indian Specialists to Mangolia in various fields of agriculture and animal husbandry; setting up direct contacts between agricultural research institutions of the two countries, etc. Mutual cooperation in the field of agriculture under the Agreement/Work Plan envisages agricultural development in both countries beneficial to farmers.